



Andrew P. Flanagan
Town Manager

TOWN OF ANDOVER

Town Manager's Office
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June 7, 2017

The Honorable Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Secretary Stephanie Pollack
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Re: MBTA Monopole Projects, Andover – Projects 31927, 31930, 31931

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing to you regarding a project of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to install monopole Wi-Fi towers along the Commuter Rail. The project proposes monopole towers that are 74 feet in height, some of which are placed in high elevation areas, directly abutting residential properties and historical and cultural settings. I am writing to express the Town of Andover's sincere opposition to these monopoles that will be severely intrusive to our historic districts.

In early May, an outside project consultant alerted the Town of Andover about this project and our rights to provide comments through a Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. After receiving that notice, the Town notified residents whose property abuts the monopoles about their rights to provide comments under Section 106. Residents have been very vocal in their opposition to this project. We have hosted two public meetings on this topic, both with overflow attendance. We are in the process, and have made several attempts, to host a public meeting with the project proponents to understand more about the scope of work.

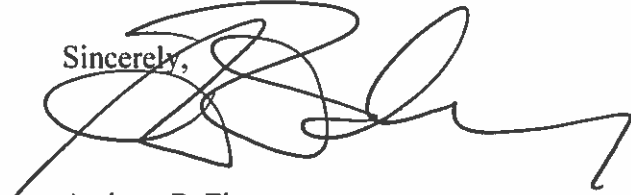
Two of the proposed monopole towers will be located near or within view of properties located in two National Historic Register Districts: the Andover Village Industrial National Historic Register District, and the Shawsheen Village National Historic Register District. Additionally, the proposed towers are within view of properties listed independently on the National Register of Historic Places or the Andover Historic Building Survey. There are hundreds of historic properties located within view of these proposed monopoles. The Town is in receipt of over 120 comments regarding the adverse impacts of this project.

We are also unsatisfied with the caliber of communication and information related to this project. Much of the information provided by the project proponents has been confusing, and at times contradictory. Only after connecting with the Wisconsin based project consultant were we able to receive more information about this project. We have more recently confirmed with the MBTA that there are in fact five proposed monopoles for Andover.

The Town humbly requests that you suspend this project until a complete presentation by the MBTA and their project team is conducted in Andover. There are many unanswered questions, and our residents expect and demand more information about this project that could have a profound impact on property values and historical significance. We also ask that you consider the historical value that is being compromised, and advise that these poles be placed in areas better suited for industrial infrastructure.

On behalf of the Andover Board of Selectmen, thank you for your time and consideration regarding this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (978) 623-8215.

Sincerely,



Andrew P. Flanagan
Town Manager



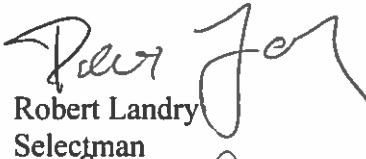
Paul Salafia
Chair, Board of Selectmen



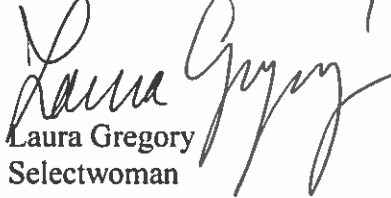
Alex Vispoli
Vice Chair, Board of Selectmen



Dan Kowalski
Selectman



Robert Landry
Selectman



Laura Gregory
Selectwoman

cc: Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin
Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer
Brian Shortsleeve, Acting General Manager, MBTA
Congresswoman Niki Tsongas
United States Senator Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator Ed Markey
Senator Barbara L'Italien
Representative James Lyons
Representative Frank Moran